Disease Note

FIRST REPORT OF '*CANDIDATUS* PHYTOPLASMA SOLANI' IN PEPPER AND CELERY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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In August 2015, in Bijeljina (Semberija province of Bosnia and Herzegovina) pepper and celery plants were surveyed for phytoplasma infections. During the survey pepper plants (*Capsicum annuum*) of cvs Fortesa, Niška Šipka and Amanda showing stunting and leaf yellowing were observed, while celery plants (*Apium graveolens* L.) variety 'Giant Prague', expressed leaf whitening and stunting; the percentages of symptomatic plants ranged from 20 to 30%, respectively. Leaf samples from symptomatic and asymptomatic plants were tested to verify phytoplasma presence using nested-PCR/RFLP analyses. Results of 16S rDNA RFLP analyses with *Tru*1I and tuf typing using *Hpa*II (Langer and Maixner, 2004) indicated the presence of a '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma solani'-related strain in all the symptomatic samples tested. There was no variability in the *tuf* gene and only *tuf*-type b was detected. Four symptomatic pepper and two celery samples were selected for further characterization amplifying *vmp1* and *stamp* genes (Fialová *et al*., 2009; Fabre *et al*., 2011). The nucleotide sequences of the obtained amplicons were submitted to GenBank (accession Nos. KU340846-51 and KU295501-06 for *vmp1* and *stamp* sequences, respectively). Homology with '*Ca*. P. solani' sequences from database was 96-100% for the *vmp1* and 99-100% for the *stamp* gene. Combined RFLP analyses using *Tru*1I and *Hpy*188I on *stamp* and *Rsa*I on *vmp1* genes distinguished four '*Ca*. P. solani' lineages indicating the presence of genetic variability among the phytoplasmas studied. This is the first report of '*Ca*. P. solani' presence in symptomatic pepper and celery in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Disease Note

FIRST REPORT OF *POTATO SPINDLE TUBER VIROID* IN MONTENEGRO

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In summer of 2015, asymptomatic samples of *Solanum jasminoides* (eight samples), *Brugmansia* sp. (four samples), *Lycianthes rantonnetii* (three samples) and *Datura* sp. (two samples) were collected in six different municipalities of Montenegro (Bar, Kotor, Pljevlja, Bijelo Polje, Herceg Novi and Ulcinj) and tested for *Potato spindle tuber viroid* (PSTVd). Total RNA was extracted from leaves using the RNeasy Plant Mini kit (Qiagen, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions and amplified by RT-PCR according to the EPPO protocol (OEPP/EPPO, 2004).

Four samples (three samples of *S. jasminoides* and one of *Brugmansia* sp) out of five samples collected in the Kotor municipality were positive for PSTVd. Samples from other municipalities were negative for PSTVd. To confirm these results, leaves of the positive samples were analyzed with a second RT-PCR (Faggioli *et al*., 2013). The amplified products obtained with both the first and second RT-PCR diagnostic protocols were cloned and sequenced. All the PSTVd clones showed nucleotide sequences identical among themselves (GenBank accession Nos. KU323790-KU323792 for isolates from *S. jasminoides* and KU323793 for an isolate of Brugmansia sp.) and to a Croatian isolate of *S. jasminoides* (GenBank accession No. KF418767.1). To our knowledge, this is the first report of PSTVd in Montenegro.

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